AN

ADDRESS

Sign'd by the greateſt part of the

MEMBERS

OF THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

SCOTLAND,

And Deliver'd to

HIS MAJESTY

At *Hampton-Court*, the 15th. day of *October*, 1689.

TO THE

KING'S

Moſt Excellent MAJESTY:

The Humble Repreſentation of the Lords and Commiſſioners of Shires and Burroughs of the Kingdom of Scotland, *Under-ſubſcribers, and Members of this Current Parliament now Adjourned till the Eighth of* October *next.*

NOthing ſave the great and general Surpriſe of this long diſtreſſed and at preſent unſettled Kingdom, upon the late Adjournment of Your moſt Loyal Parliament for ſo long a time, and in ſo critical a ſeaſon, with the deep Concern of Your Royal Intereſt therein, could poſſibly have induced us to this ſo neceſſary a Petition. But the viſible Conſternation and Diſcouragement of thouſands of Your good Subjects, delayed in the Relief and Comfort which at this time they aſſuredly expected, with the Advantages that We apprehend Your Majeſties Enemies, both within and without the Kingdom, may think to reap by ſuch an Interruption, being our only Motives, We cannot, We dare not be ſilent. And therefore to prevent theſe evil Conſequence,

We in the first place most solemnly Protest and Declare, in the Presence of God and Men, Our constant and inviolable Fidelity and Adherence to Your Majesties Royal Title, Right and Interest, so frankly and chearfully recognosed by Us in this Current Parliament, wishing and praying for nothing more under the Sun, than Your long and Prosperous Reign, as that wherein the Security of all our Lives and Liberties, and also of our Holy Religion, more dear to us than both, is infallibly included. It was the Perswasion we had of the Justice, as well as the Necessity, of Your Majesties Heroick Undertaking for the Delivery of these Kingdoms, with the Conviction of the Divine Confirmation that appeared in its glorious Succes; that moved most, if not all of Us, to endeavour and concur more heartily in the late Meeting of Estates, for the Advancement and Establishment of your Majesty upon the Thron, when some discovered their Disaffection, and were too open Retarders and Obstructers of that good Design. And it is from the same true Affection and Zeal, that we do now most heartily make the above mentioned Protestation, to obviat all the Misconstructions Your Enemies may make in this juncture.

Nor are we less assured of Your Majesties most sincere and gracious intentions, to perform for us to the utmost, all that the Estates of the Kingdom have either demanded, or represented as necessary and expedient for securing the Protestant Religion, restoring their Laws and Liberties, and redressing of their Grievances, according to your Majesties Declaration for this Kingdom. Neither can it be imagined, that so wise and just a King as Your Majesty, will ever be perswaded, that so Loyal a Parliament as this, can be induced either to wish or design any prejudice to, or Diminution of Your true interest and Prerogative; but such as have slavishly served and flattered Arbitrary Power and Tyranny, will be always studying for their own sinister ends, to state a separat Interest betwixt King and People, a Practice which we are confident Your Majesty abhors.

But

But that we may cleare our ſelves upon this preſent occaſion to Your Majeſty's full ſatisfaction, and refuting of all Miſrepreſentations we can incur on any hand, we ſhall briefly rehearſe to Your Majeſty, the Votes paſt in this preſent Parliament, to which the Royal Aſſent is not given, with ſuch ſhort reflections, as we hope may tend to the better Vindication of all concerned,

The Firſt Act upon which the Vote of Parliament has paſt is that, Declaring the Priviledge of the Eſtates of Parliament *to Nominate and Appoint Committees*, as they ſhall think fit; and excluding therefrom the Officers of State, unleſs they be choſen: And omitting what the Parliament hath already repreſented to Your Majeſty as reaſons of their Vote; it is humbly conceived, that this Act is exactly framed to the extent of that Grievance, which together with the reſt, is deſired in the *Inſtrument of Government*, to be redreſſed unto us in Parliament.

The Second, was an Act *Abrogating* the Act of Parliament 1669. aſſerting *the Kings ſupremacy* over all Perſons, and in all Cauſes Eccleſiaſtical; and this Act is ſo exactly conforme to the Second Article of the Abovementioned Grievances; and the foreſaid Act of Supremacy in it ſelf is ſo dangerous to the Proteſtant Religion, as well as inconſiſtent with the Eſtabliſhment of any Church Government, that we doubt not Your Majeſty will ever approve all that voted to it.

The Third, is an act anent *Perſons not to be employed in publick Truſts*; and all the Ruins and Diſtreſſes of this Kingdom, have ſo certainly flowed from the Perſons therein noted, eſpecially, ſuch as by their contriving of, and concurring in the diſpenſing power, have thereby eminently indangered our Religion, and overturned all the Fences of our liberties and properties (which we have good ground to beleive the Parliament would have extended but to few perſons) And Your Majeſty in Your Declaration, have ſo juſtly charged the ſame upon evil and wicked Counſellors (the only perſons pointed at in this Act) that we are perſwaded that

You

You will find it absolutely necessary for attaining all the ends of Your Majesty's glorious undertaking for our Relief.

The fourth, is an Act concerning the *Nomination of the ordinary Lords of Session*, and the *Election of the President*, To wit, that in a total vacation they be tryed and admitted or rejected by Parliament, and in a particular Vacation they be tryed and admitted, or rejected by the other Lords: And that the President be chosen by the Lords themselves, conforme to our old practick, and expreſs Statute. And this Act is so agreeable to Practick, Laws and Acts of Parliament, and so necessary for the true and equal administration of justice (the great security of all Kingdoms) That Your *Majesty* will unquestionably approve it,

The Fifth and last is an Act Ordaining the *Presbyterian Ministers yet alive*, who were thrust out since the first of *January* 1661 for not conforming to Prelacy, and not complying with the Courses of the time, to be *restored*. And this Act is in it self so just and so consequential from the Claim of Right, and agreeable to your Majesties Declaration, that less in common Equity could not be done. And here Your Majesty may be pleased to consider, That tho' Prelacy be now by Law abolished, yet these few Ministers not exceeding Sixty (tho' restored, as they are not, for want of the Royal assent to the foresaid act) would be all the Presbyterian Ministers legally established and provided for in *Scotland*.

It is not unknown to Your Majesty what have been the sad Confusions and Disorders of this distressed Countrey under Prelacy, and for want of its ancient Presbyterian Government; and now the whole *West*, and many other parts of *Scotland*, are at present desolate and destitute, having only Ministers called by the People upon the late Liberty, without any Benefice or Living, or convenient place to Preach in. It is also certain, that there are many Hundreds of forefaulted and fined Persons who are yet waiting to be restored and refounded, according to the Claime of Right, and Your Majesties gracious Instructions thereanent.

It

It is true, the laſt Thing propoſed by your Majeſties Commiſſioner in Parliament, was a ſupply of Money for Maintenance of the Forces ſo neceſſary for our preſent Defence; and We ſhould have proven our ſelves ungrateful to Your Majeſty, and falſe to our own Intereſt and Security, if We had abſolutely refuſed it: but there being a ſufficient and certain Fond to maintain all the Forces, and ſupport all other incident Charges of the Government for ſome Months; all that we demanded was, That ſome things viſibly neceſſary for Satisfaction of the Country, and the better enabling and diſpoſing them to pay the ſaid Supply, might be firſt expeded. We are confident that the Vote of Parliament, which was only for a ſhort Delay, will not give Your Majeſty the leaſt ground of offence.

And now having preſumed to lay theſe Things before Your Majeſty with all humble ſubmiſſion, purely out of Duty for preventing the evil Conſtructions of Your Majeſties Enemies, and for our own juſt Vindication; We moſt humbly beſeech Your Sacred Majeſty graciouſly to conſider what is here repreſented; and in Proſecution of Your Majeſties Acceptance of the Claim of Right, and Your Declaration emitted for this Kingdom, to take ſuch Courſes as You in Your Royal wiſdom ſhall think fit, for Paſſing the aforeſaid Acts of Parliament, and redreſſing all our other Grievances, And We Your Majeſties moſt humble Petitioners and faithful Subjects, ſhall, as in Duty bound, ever Pray for Your long and proſperous Reign over Us.

FINIS.